

SPORTS BOARD

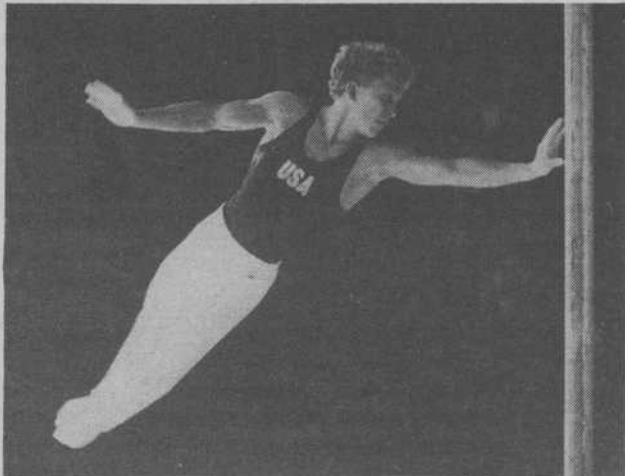
Vol. 1, No.7

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SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING



STEPHENS-PEREZ- MORALES STRONG CARD AT SHOWBOAT



GYMNASTICS INVITATIONAL - Top male gymnasts in the United States will compete November 9 in Caesars Palace Sports Pavillion. Pictured here is Jim Hartung, 1980 NCAA Champion of the Rings, High Bar and Pommel Horse competitions. Tickets available at the Fantasy Tower tickets sales desk are \$5 and \$2. Competition begins at 2:00 p.m. All proceeds from tickets sales will be donated to the United States Gymnastics Federation.

Greg Stephens is keeping close watch on the four men with whom he wants to catch while Nicky Perez is focusing on the one man at whom he wants a crack.

Whether Stephens and Perez move a little closer to their so-far elusive prey will be determined Tuesday at the Showboat Hotel, Casino and Bowling Center when they appear in 12-round title fights.

Stephens, the North American Boxing Council welterweight champion, takes on Pepe Dominguez while Perez fights for the vacant NABF featherweight title against Cookie Valencia.

The "Showboat Fight Night" boxing card, promoted by Tony Trudnich, begins at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Showboat's sports pavilion, located upstairs above the Trophy Star Lounge in the northeast corner of the hotel.

Also appearing on the three-bout, 34-round card will be NABF lightweight champion Jorge "Kid Dynamite" Morales against Robert Perez in a 10-round, non-title bout.

Stephens is a young man hungry for a world



ranking and the recognition and opportunity which accompanies it.

"I always felt I could be world class," says Stephens, "and ever since I became NABF champ I know I can be."

Stephens won the NABF title when he stopped Bruce Curry earlier this year.

"Now I've got my sites set on the top," says Stephens, who has an 18-4 record. But to do that there's four guys I've got to join and then beat. That's Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard, Tommy Hearns

and Wilfred Benitez. That's pretty fast company."

Indeed, Duran is the current World Boxing Council welterweight champion, Hearns is his World Boxing Association counterpart and both Leonard and Benitez are former WBC welterweight champs.

"It'll take some time before I get a crack at any of them, but I'm not going to do anything dumb like lose in the meantime and blow my chances," says Stephens. "I know that I've got to keep winning each time I fight, and

that's why Dominguez doesn't have a chance. I'm not going to let him or anybody else upset my plans."

Perez, on the other hand, is stalking just one person.

"I want Sanchez," says Perez, referring to one Salvador Sanchez, the WBC's featherweight champion.

Perez doesn't believe in wasting time. His fight against Valencia Tuesday at the Showboat will be only his first as a featherweight. Perez moved up from the 122-pound super bantamweight division when he found it too difficult to make the lighter weight.

Perez has had no small success as a super bantamweight, running up a 44-2 record, winning the United State title and getting a shot at WBC champ Wilfredo Gomez last year in Madison Square Garden.

Perez fights out of Tucson. Stephens is out of Los Angeles.

SENTINEL Pro Grid Picks

EARLY NFL LINE: Games Nov. 9-10

Chicago 3 over Washington, Pittsburgh 7 over Tampa Bay, Green Bay 3 over San Francisco, Dallas 10 over New York Giants, Baltimore 3 1/2 over Cleveland Browns, Minnesota-Detroit even, Oakland 9 over Cincinnati, Buffalo 4 over N.Y. Jets, Atlanta 2 over St. Louis, Los Angeles 11 over Miami, San Diego 8 over Denver, Philadelphia 11 over New Orleans, Seattle 2 over Kansas City. (Monday) Houston 2 over New England.

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